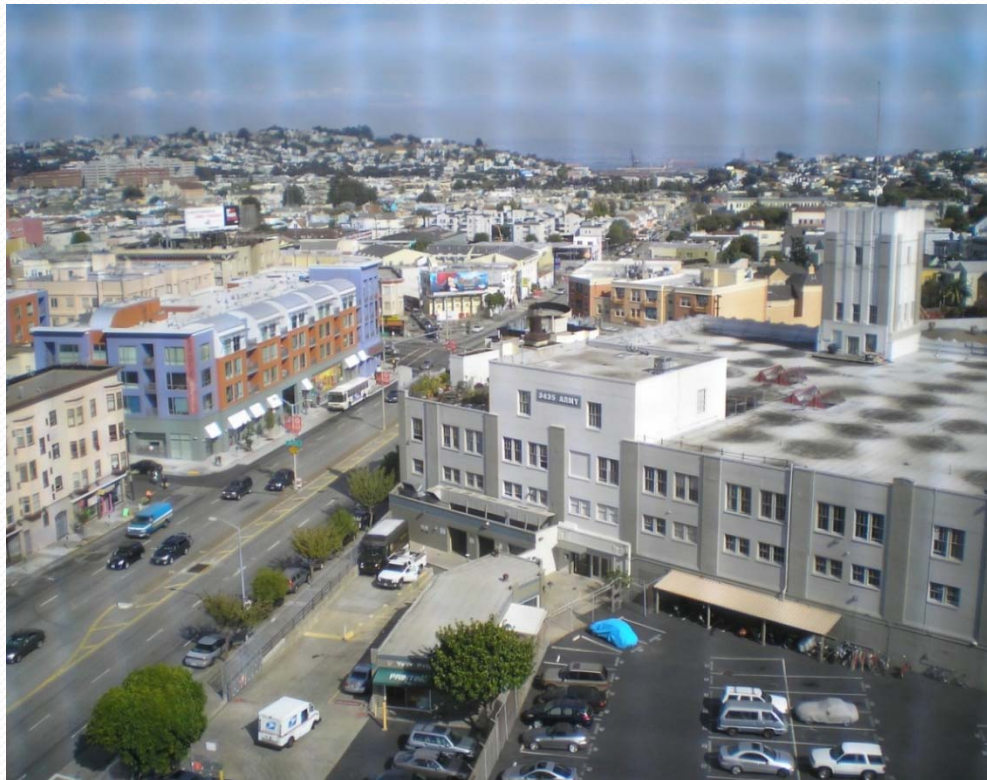


# Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities Grant Program



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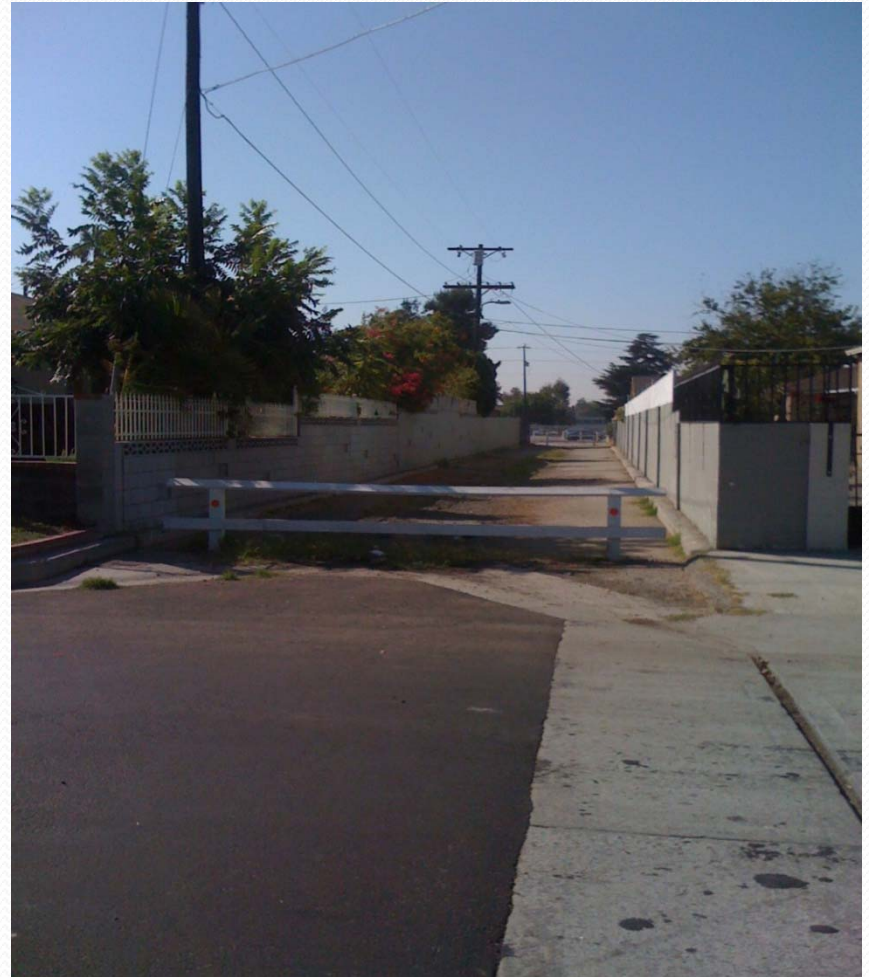
## Review Team

### Technical

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# Strategic Growth Council Objectives

The Council is tasked with coordinating the activities of state agencies to -

- Improve air and water quality
- Protect natural resources and agricultural lands
- Increase availability of affordable housing
- Improve infrastructure systems
- Promote public health
- Assist state and local entities in the planning of sustainable communities and meeting AB 32 goals

# Bond Act

**Proposition 84** - Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006

## Implementing Statute

**SB 732** (Steinberg) Chapter 13, Statutes of 2008

- Specifies requirements and discretionary actions for the urban greening program
- Established the Strategic Growth Council, which includes Agency Secretaries from -
  - Natural Resources
  - Environmental Protection
  - Business, Transportation and Housing
  - Health and Human Services
  - Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research and
  - One member of the public



# Urban Greening and Sustainable Communities Grant Program

## Program Overview (Projects)

How much?

Who is eligible?

What is eligible?

Review/Selection  
Process



## How Much?

### Proposition 84 Includes \$90 million for Urban Greening

Two remaining funding rounds

Up to \$20 million available this round for awards (planning and projects)

No maximum

No minimum

Up to 25% of total allocation may be awarded for urban greening master plans



# Who is eligible?

## Projects

- Cities
- Counties
- Nonprofits
- JPA (if one member is eligible)
- Special Districts



# Application Process – **\*\*NEW for 2011\*\***

- Concept Proposal
  - Submitted prior to full application
  - Review committee will determine eligibility and weaknesses
- Selected applicants will be asked to submit a full application
- Full applications will be used to award grant funds





## Statutory Requirements 30 points




Must be accomplished by -

- a) Using natural systems, or systems that mimic natural systems, or
- b) Creating, enhancing, or expanding community green spaces, and

Provide multiple benefits including, but not limited to -

- a decrease in air and water pollution, or
- a reduction in the consumption of natural resources and energy, or
- an increase in the reliability of local water supplies, or
- an increased adaptability to climate change
- other (e.g., higher than minimum density, historical value of trees, disadvantage labor force)



## What is Eligible?

### Statutory Requirements

### **30 points**

continued -

- Be consistent with the State's planning policies pursuant to Section 65041.1 of the Government Code as they pertain to following priorities -
  - ❖ promote infill development and invest in existing communities
  - ❖ protect, preserve and enhance environmental, agricultural and recreation resources, and
  - ❖ encourage location and resource efficient new development
- Reduce, on as permanent a basis that is feasible, greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and any applicable regional plan.



## **What is Eligible?**

### **Statutory Requirements**

**continued -**

- Comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000).
- Be acquired from a willing seller (acquisitions only), and
- Comply with Labor Code Section 1771.8 regarding the labor compliance program and prevailing wages.

# What is Eligible?

## Additional Requirements

### Must also -

1. Be located in or adjacent to an urban area as defined
2. Provide for public access and educational component, where feasible





## What qualifies as an Urban Area?



An urban area is an area equivalent to 500 acres and has an existing or planned for density of approximately 10 dwelling units per acre (between 3,500 and 5,000 dwelling units per 500 acres)

A portion of the project must be located either in -

- the urban area as defined above, or
- an adjacent area, geographically equivalent to the urban area, as define above

# What qualifies as an Urban Area?

*(continued)*



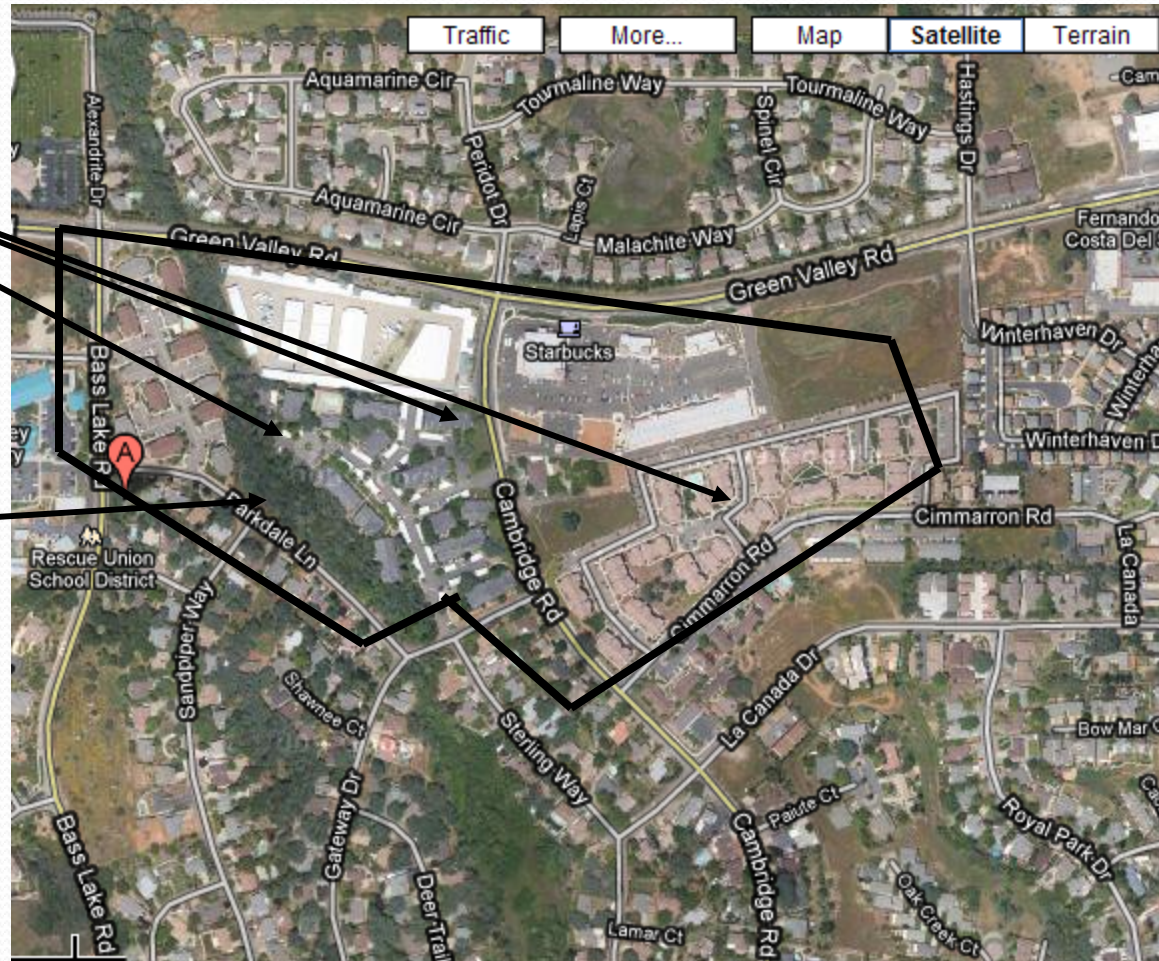
- Projects must provide direct benefits to the urban area such as walkability and/or functionality (i.e., no impediments such as a freeway with no under/over passing, river with no pedestrian crossing, storm water capture that does not directly benefit the urban area, etc.)
- “Planned for” means significant efforts in progress by the entity with planning authority over the qualifying urban area, including the endorsement of a regional blueprint with qualifying density.
- Applicants will be asked to provide methodology/documentation for determining urban area eligibility.

To determine eligibility, it may be helpful to visit the planning department for the local jurisdiction that serves your project area.

## Example of Qualifying Urban Area

Apartments

Project location



## Project Examples

This following are **EXAMPLES** of project types that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and provide multiple benefits -

- Tree canopy
- Urban forestry
- Local parks and open space
- Greening of existing public lands and structures, including schools
- Multi-objective stormwater projects, including construction of permeable surfaces and collection basins and barriers
- Urban streams, including restoration
- Community, demonstration or outdoor education gardens and orchards
- Urban heat island mitigation and energy conservation efforts through landscaping and green roof projects
- Non-motorized urban trails that provide safe routes for both recreation and travel between residences, workplaces, commercial centers and schools

**LIST NOT INTENDED TO BE ALL-INCLUSIVE**



## Priority Consideration

25 points

Statutory Priorities –

Additional points will be given to projects that meet one or more of the following:

- Uses interagency cooperation and integration (i.e., collaboration), or
- Uses existing public lands and facilitates use of public resources and investments including schools, or
- Is proposed by an economically or severely economically disadvantaged community

## Priority Consideration

25 points

Additional Priorities -

- Improves public health
- Demonstrates innovation and/or creativity
- Proposed by communities more vulnerable to climate change or addresses an environmental justice issue
- Provides public access, as feasible



# Project Readiness

## 10 Points

- Your Next Steps - What are the next steps after funds are awarded?
- Performance measures - Have you given consideration to how you will measure the success of the project?
- Status - What is the status of preliminary plans, CEQA, permits, etc.?
- Site Control - Do you have or will you have permission to develop, operate & maintain the project?
- Other Funding Sources – Have other funding sources been secured? Do you have a contingency plan should all funds not be secured at time of award?

## Organizational Capacity

10 Points

- Implementation – No Experience? Where/how will the expertise be provided?
- Community Participation – How will you involve the community?
- Long-term Sustainability - How will the project will be sustained to meet land tenure requirements?
- Contingency - What is your contingency plan if over budget?





## Quick Reference

### Administrative Highlights

- Reimbursable program
- Overhead costs (indirect) not reimbursable
- All eligible costs must be incurred during project performance period
- CEQA must be completed prior to releasing construction funds
- Site control must be secured before eligible costs can be reimbursed
- Non-construction costs (preliminary costs) are capped at 25%
- 10% contingency allowed for eligible construction costs and non-construction costs that don't exceed the 25% cap.

# SUMMARY

## Next Steps (*Timeline Estimated*)

- The Natural Resources Agency will accept Concept Proposals from **May 2, 2011 to June 17, 2011**
- Fall                                      Invitation to Submit Full Application
- Fall/Winter                              Funding recommendations/awards \*
- Winter/Spring                              Begin development of grant agreements

\*All awards dependent on appropriation and cash.